Anne Figueira Peterson, as told to Maxine Durney, Sept 13 1989 Additions and corrections Nov 3 1989.

My mother was the daughter of a Scotch sea captain, whose name was Swain. He married twice, the second time to my grandmother who was Portuguese and only fifteen at the time. My mother whose name was Nellie Swain was born in the Hawaiian islands.

My father, Manuel Figueira, came from the Azores to work on Hawaii's big sugar cane plantations. Owners of the plantations paid the way of those who would work. Later he became a deep sea diver, helping to build the railroads of the Hawaiian Islands.

I was born in the Islands, and remember this about the chickens we kept for our own egg supply. If there were any extra we sold them to an old Chinese man who went door to door, buying an egg here and an egg there.

As children we spoke Portuguese, English, and a little Hawaiian, just words and phrases we picked up.

Father got the bends from his diving, but heard of a Chinese doctor in Oakland who could cure him. My father couldn't walk when he came here to Oakland, but he was cured by that herb doctor.

My parents liked California, and we all moved here; five kids, and later there were three more children. My aunt Mary Swain Rose lived in Petaluma.

This was 1923. We lived at 154 Wilson street, and my father worked for the North Western Pacific Railroad.

I was scared to go to school, where boys and girls would be together. In the islands we had separate schools. In the islands we were bilingual, speaking both English and Hawaiian. Here we used Hawaiian, too. But I remember when I asked my uncle about school in Petaluma, wanting to know when school was out in the afternoon, and I used the Hawaiian word for "out"..."paw"....he said I should no longer use those Hawaiian words.

I didn't finish high school, but went to work instead for the Poultry Producers, in December, 1926, just before my 16th birthday. If you lived in town, as we did, you had to go to school one afternoon a week, if you were under 18. How we studied at that special school. Eventually we took a test to graduate.

Those were the good days at Poultry Producers. There were about fifty candlers when I started, there were three alleys of candlers. Later there were more.

We had such a good time... picnics, chicken barbecues, and they had a truck to take us out to the picnic. We used to hike up Sonoma Mountain on Sundays.

Someone would get married; we'd all chip in money for a present. The company would have a big dance in San Francisco and we would dress up in long dresses. Poultry Producers provided the transportation. Top of the Fairmont, once I remember. Later that evening they took us to Lido's in North Beach. Fred Boysen, who was our supervisor, was mad that time because we had a cheese sandwich costing $5.00 there.

We were all just a bunch of kids, teenagers.

"Don't break the cups and saucers", Mr. Bergstedt, president of the board of directors, would tell us, when we were at lunch at the cafeteria.

Fred Boysen, whom we called "Pop", gave us a lecture every week. It was a real sad tale and we believed him. "The inspector was here, and he found dirty eggs...be sure you do your work right, or I'll get in trouble." He told us to stop talking when we were working, but it got boring just standing there. Of course we talked.

Pop would help himself to our gum, but sometimes we slipped a piece of cardboard in the gum wrapper, just to tease him. At Christmas we all chipped in to buy him a nice present.

Walter Rasmussen came and played the piano during our lunch hour. How he played! We all danced.

You didn't mind working, because it was so much fun. In the beginning there was no heat except what came from a pot bellied stove. It was all we had to keep us warm. We would gather round it. They had black curtains around us at our stations, and that helped to keep the drafts off. The curtains were there to darken our cubicles so we could see what we were candling.

Alice Flohr and Carol Jones worked in the office. Ruth Fink and Josina Federson were there, too. In the early years our egg inspectors were Louise Allison, whom we called "Babe", and Lena Mello.

We worked at night during the spring, going back to work after supper. There were lots of eggs to do in the spring. Then during the war we worked a regular nine hour day.

I missed it so much when I quit in 1935 when I was married. I would go over for coffee break every day and after the baby was born, in 1937, I'd leave the baby with my mother. Pop Boysen said, "If you are going to be here every day, you might as well come back to work. We need you." I went back to work then, and was there until the plant closed in 1957.

I married Leslie Peterson. Our daughter is Joanne Harker, who had five children, and now there are five great grandchildren.

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Oral History Program

Conditional Release Agreement

For and in consideration of the participation by the Petaluma Historical Museum in any programs involving the dissemination of ~~tape-recorded~~ memoirs and oral history material for publication, copyright, and other uses, I hereby release all right, title, or interest in any and to all of my ~~tape-recorded~~ memoirs to the Petaluma Historical Museum subject to the following stipulations:

PLACE Petaluma, Ca.

DATE Nov. 11, 1980

Anne F. Peterson
(Intervievee)

Maxine Durney
(for the Petaluma Historical Museum)

PETALUMA HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM
Oral History Program
Family History Questionnaire

	Name	Birthdate	Birthplace	Deceased? Date
Parents*	Manuel & Nellie Figueira		Portugal & Hawaii	1943 - Father 1953 - Mother
Brothers & Sisters	John Figueira Joseph & Ernestine - (deceased) Helen Sullivan, Margaret Martin, Barbara Lind, Roland Figueira			
Grand-parents*	John & Maria Figueira Albert & Melinda Swain			
Spouse	Leslie Peterson			
Children	Joanne Peterson Harker			
Grandchildren	David Harker Barry Harker Richard Harker Rodney Harker Stacey Harker.			

*Please include maiden name of mother and grandmothers.

THANK YOU!

PETALUMA HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM
Oral History Program
Narrator Personal Information Questionnaire

Name Peterson Anne F. Figueira
Last First Middle (Maiden)

Address 154 Wilson St. Apt. A.
Petaluma, Ca. 94952

Marital status: Married ___ Single ___ Divorced ___ Widowed X

Birthdate 1-30-1911 Birthplace Hilo, Hawaii.

Length of residence in Petaluma (or Sonoma County) 64 yrs.

Education: Elementary school ___

Secondary school High School - Grad ___

College ___ Grad ___

Other ___

Occupation(s) or former occupations(s) ___
Egg Candler.

Travels Europe - Holland, Germany, France, I
Belgium, Austria, ~~Italy~~ Hawaii, Canada Mexico.
and around the U.S.A some states.

Organizations, clubs AARP

Other special interests Fishing & Travel

Additional comments ___

THANK YOU!